

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation that, in the Final Office Action of February 15, 2008, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-18 and 22 were allowed, and claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, claims 20, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,433,780 (“Gordon et al.”) in view of European Patent Application No. EP 0 957 448 A2 (“McCallister et al.”), U.S. Patent No. 6,377,249 (“Mumford”), and/or U.S. Patent No. 6,963,059 (Lauffenburger et al.”).

In response, Applicants have rewritten the “objected to” claim 24 in independent form by amending the independent claim 23 to include all the limitations of claim 24. As such, claim 24 has been canceled. Thus, the amended independent claim 23 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 20 and 21 have also been canceled. In view of the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-18, 22 and 23.

Respectfully submitted,
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